

U.S. OFFERS FOR



Pop Shorts

ARETHA FRANKLIN has completed her new album "Aretha Arrives" which is due for release here later this year . . . NORMIE ROWE is waiting to hear whether he will be called upon for two years in the Australian Army. If he is, he will have to serve one year in Viet Nam . . . AMEN CORNER leave for 8 days tour of U.S. colleges on October 7 . . . JIMMY JAMES will be recording for the Stax label in New York on August 18. His next British album is due out in September and is entitled "Jimmy James & The Vagabonds No. 2" . . . ALAN BOWN no longer with Pye . . . THE YOUNG RASCALS "Girl Like You" single to be released early August . . . ARTHUR HOWES bringing SAM & DAVE and PERCY SLEDGE to tour here in September . . . THE ACTION have a new organist IAN WHITEMAN, but are likely to change their name with their next record . . . RUPERTS PEOPLE's "Reflections Of Charles Brown" to be released in eight European countries . . . ROGER WHITTAKER and DODIE WEST begin a Friday night television series "Whistle Stop" on the BBC on August 18 . . . PETER JAY & THE JAYWALKERS have replaced THE MOVE on the series of Sunday evening concerts at the Royal Aquarium, Great Yarmouth with BILLY FURY, THE NASHVILLE TEENS and AMEN CORNER. This will be the first time Peter Jay has appeared in his home town for some years . . .

UNDoubtedly one of the best pop LP's issued this year. Saleswise, Dion and the Belmonts aren't doing a thing, but that doesn't alter the fact that this is a gem of a record. Dion's sad vocals, which can so quickly turn to hard rock, and the Belmonts' plaintive vocal backings plus some intriguing and compelling arrangements all add up to a must record. This is really on a different stream to current commercial trends, but is far better than most albums issued by top groups. Try the sadly lovely "Come To My Side", or Dion's folk-rock version of the unissued Dylan song "Baby You've Been On My Mind". Plus of course the inimitable singles "Movin' Man", "Berimbau", "My Girl The Month Of May".

★★★

AL MARTINO "This Love For You" I Will Wait For You; In The Arms Of Love; True Love; An Affair To Remember; Something In Our Hearts; Hold Back The Dawn; Close To You; All; If You Go Away; Autumn Leaves; Devotion (Capitol T 2654).

WITH his style of giving an older generation the music they like best, well sung and well recorded, Al has been incredibly successful over the past few years since his recent comeback. This selection is as good as usual — perhaps a bit more wistful on the whole. I shall give this LP to my Mother . . .

★★★

THE PRETTY THINGS "Emotions"—Death Of A Socialite; Children; The Sun; There Will Never Be Another Day; House Of Ten; Out In The Night; One Long Glance; Growing In My Mind; Photographer; Bright Lights Of The City; Tripping; My Time (Fontana TL5425)

QUIETE a different album from The Thinks. They have progressed somewhat to using different instruments, which are played by able session musicians, and the songs themselves show some kind of development. A pity that the Things have fallen out of the public eye because this LP will need to be heard to sell.

★★★

ARETHA FRANKLIN: "I Never Loved A Man The Way I Love You" — Respect; Drown In My Own Tears; I Never Loved A Man; Soul Serenade; Don't Let Me Lose This Dream; Baby, Baby, Baby; Dr. Feelgood; Good Times; Do Right

BEE GEES



THE BEE GEE'S — even Sonny and Cher are recording their songs.

THIS BEE GEE'S recently returned from a highly successful promotional visit to America where their "To Love Somebody" is currently racing up the charts. They boys left this week for Scandinavian television appearances prior to appearing in Germany. Their debut album "The Bee Gee's First" was due to be released last Friday, but due to delay over the printing of the LP sleeve it will now be released on Friday, July 28. The album will be released in the U.S. on the Atlantic label and advance orders are already over the 100,000 mark.

SONNY & CHER are currently recording four of the group's compositions.

Manager ROBERT STIGWOOD has had numerous offers as a result of the boys recent trip — including a 500,000 dollar offer for them to appear on a two month concert tour. However, he informs us that the boys will not appear on any U.S. concert tours this year but will probably make their concert debut at the Carnegie Hall next January.

GERRY MARDEN, currently entertaining troops in Israel with THE PACEMAKERS and Disc Jockey DAVID JACOBS has recorded the BEE GEE'S composition "Gilbert Green", which will be issued by CBS early next month.



TWO top U.S. Country Music artistes HANK LOCKLIN and CARL BELLEVUE returned to the States on Monday following a successful tour here. Before they left I snatched a 'phone conversation with Hank, who said: "I have been coming over to Britain for the past three years and I think that Country Music, in spite of all the other types of music you have here, will be very big. Since my last trip Mr. Humperdinck and Tom Jones have had hits with two big



HANK LOCKLIN

Country songs. I think it's going to happen — and it's not a music which comes in and goes out, it stays. You now have a Country Music chart which proves that people are becoming more interested. In fact, I enjoyed this trip better than at anytime.

"On this trip I've worked some English clubs I've never worked before and I can say that there's definitely a bigger trend for Country than there was last year.

"I visited a lot of Irish Ballrooms and Irish Country Music is good. They proved to me that they can sing Country Music over there. As far as America is concerned, British Country artistes are acknowledged. All the Country stations plugged Tom Jones and Mr. Humperdinck very big—and, in fact, I like Tom's version of "Green Green Grass Of Home" best, he puts a lot of personality into it."

Liverpool Country artiste LOCKLIN DEEMING was killed recently in a car crash. Locklin was an ex-lead vocalist with THE CAROLINA TRAVELLERS. He recently turned solo and intended to record his first single in August. His funeral took place last Friday.

Hall, Walton on July 24 and artistes on the bill include THE HILLSIDERS, THE COUNTRY FIVE, THE KENTUCKIANS, HANK WALTERS' DUSTY ROAD RAMBLERS, THE MILLERS, THE RANCHERS and PHIL BRADY. CRISPIN ST. PETERS hopes to appear if he can get a night off from his Cabaret commitments. The second concert will take place at the Grafton Ballroom, Liverpool on August 16.

CLUB SCENE

American coloured duo SAM & BILL made their British debut at the Speakeasy Club last Sunday. The outfit only formed this year and their big break came following a dynamic appearance at Harlem's Apollo Theatre. Their first single "I Feel Like Crying" entered the U.S. R & B charts and they are currently here to promote the disc. The group performed a short act with some very predictable material — "Hold On I'm Coming", "Sweet Soul Music", "Yesterday" and "Let It Be Me", but their current release proved to be the highlight of their act.

Two more heats for 'the best dressed boy' and 'the best dressed girl' competition at Tiles Club will be held on July 22 and 29. The final will take place on August 5.

DECCA SHAKE-UP

MR. Selwyn Turnbull has been appointed head of the Decca Promotion Department at 18 Great Marlborough Street, W.I. (REG 2103). Previous to this new appointment Mr. Turnbull was responsible for LP promotion.

Mr. Dick Rowe, head of Decca pop A & R will have an office at Great Marlborough Street which will be looked after by Miss Sue Patience, who is well known throughout the music business.

Independent producers, songwriters and artistes are invited to take their discs, acetates, tapes and songs to Miss Patience. Mr. Rowe and his team of producers will also be spending much time at Great Marlborough Street to meet with music publishers, independent producers, songwriters and artistes.

BAND BOOKINGS

As news was confirmed that the New Vaudeville Band has signed for a debut pantomime appearance this year, it was also announced that they will be unable to work through the whole of November because Alan Klein, "Seventh Earl Of Crickwood", has to go into hospital for a "serious" throat operation.

The boys return from their fourth tour of the United States inside a year and then go into the enforced four-week retirement which will cost them an estimated £20,000 in income. Their American tour is with Louis Armstrong.

Their pantomime booking is for

Newies from Elvis, Jerry Lee.